

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /060 W

R 251417Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8716

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 0578

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS CASES JUAN MENDEZ, LUIS ITURRIAGA CASALI, **DECONTROL**
CLAUDIA PEIRO

REF: (A) STATE 014741, (B) STATE 014030

1. JUAN MENDEZ: SIX ARGENTINES, INCLUDING JUAN ERNESTO MENDEZ, HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, ACCORDING TO INTERIOR MINISTRY REPORT PUBLISHED JAN 21 (REFTEL A). MENDEZ WILL BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE FOR FRANCE. HIS FATHER WANTS TO FACILITATE A VISA FOR MENDEZ TO GO ON TO THE US, WHICH EMBASSY HAS EXPLAINED CAN TAKE UP TO 20 MONTHS FOR A REGULAR IMMIGRANT VISA. MENDEZ HAS NOT YET MADE FORMAL APPLICATION FOR US IMMIGRANT VISA. THE DECREE STATES THAT THE SIX HAD ALL BEEN CHARGED BEFORE MARCH 24 WHEN THE RIGHT OF OPTION TO LEAVE ARGENTINA WAS STILL LEGAL UNDER ARTICLE 23 OF THE CONSTITUTION. THE OPTION WAS SUSPENDED BY THE MILITARY GOVT MARCH 24.

2. LUIS ITURRIAGA CASALI: ACCORDING TO CONSOFF WHO INTERVIEWED ITURRIAGA CASALI LAST WEEK FOR PAROLE PROGRAM, ITURRIAGA CASALI WAS PICKED UP IN SEPTEMBER BY POLICE BECAUSE HE HAD NO RESIDENCE PEPRS, THEN TURNED OVER TO BORDER POLICE AS AN ILLEGAL ALIEN. HE WAS ORDERED TO LEAVE ARGENTINA AND THEN RELEASED. HE

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IMMEDIATELY WENT TO THE UNHCR AND WAS BROUGHT WITH HIS FAMILY

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TO BUENOS AIRES TO SEEK RESETTLEMENT ABROAD. HE SAID HE WAS NOT MISTREATED BY ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES. HIS APPEARANCE AS PAROLE CANDIDATE IN JANUARY WAS FIRST INDICATION TO EMBASSY THAT HE HAD BEEN FREED AFTER SEPTEMBER ARREST.

3. CLAUDIA INES PEIRO: EMBASSY PLEASED TO HEAR MISS PEIRO HAS BEEN LOCATED AND VISITED BY FAMILY (REFTEL B). THE INFORMATION UNDERSCORES OUR OWN DOUBTS ABOUT THE EFFICACY OF FORNMINISTRY'S HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON US INTEREST CASES. DISCREPANCY IN ARGENTINE EMBASSY' AND FORNMINISTRY'S INFORMATION IS NOT NEW; SAME OCCURRED IN MISETICH CASE. EMBASSY WILL ALSO MAKE POINT TO WORKING ROUP HERE. THE TIME LAG AND REGULATIONS FOR US IMMIGRANT VISAS PRACTICALLY EXCLUDE US AS POTENTIAL DESTINATION FOR ARGENTINE CITIZENS SEEKING AUTHORIZATION TO LEAVE ARGENTINA, AS IN MENDEZ CASE ABOVE.
HILL

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